

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee (Board)
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2020

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Committee Members Present

Jessa Barnard
Lisa Draper
Devon Green
Mike Fisher
Gladys Konstantin
Sharon Henault
Rebecca Heintz
Helen Labun
Erin Maguire
Julie Tessler
Jason Williams
Dale Hackett

DVHA Staff Present

Cory Gustafson
Addie Strumolo
Nissa James
Zack Goss
Alicia Cooper

Other Interested Parties

Jamie Rainville
Kelly Barnier
Alexandra Sosnowski
Susan Gretkowski
Betty Morse
Daisy Berbeco
Susan Aranoff
Sarah Peterson

*This meeting was held by conference call only.

Documents

- Advisory Committee 7_27_20 Agenda.pdf
- Advisory Committee PPT 7_27_2020.pdf

*All are posted to the [Vermont Health Connect website](#)

Convene

Devon Green and Erin Maguire chaired the meeting

Roll Call, Quorum

Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager

Approval of Minutes

June 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Membership and Recruitment

Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager

Please see *Advisory Committee PPT 7_27_2020.pdf slides 2-13* for more information.

- A review of the state and federal requirements for membership of the Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee was presented to the Committee.
- Categories of membership required by state/federal regulations but where the Committee is not currently in compliance were discussed, including the federal requirement to have representation from “board-certified physicians and other representatives of health professions who are familiar with the medical needs of [income-eligible] population groups.” VMS Executive Director, Jessa Barnard,

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indicated that it will be a “challenge to find a physician who is willing to commit and attend” and that an Association representative is more appropriate. The Chief Health Care Advocate of the Office of the Health Care Advocate, Michael Fisher, articulated that while that may be the case, it would be important to attempt recruitment to meet the requirement. The Committee’s co-chair, Erin Maguire, reminded the Committee that this is a federal requirement, not state, and as such, recruitment should be attempted.

- The Committee discussed the importance of an inclusive approach to recruitment and identified many additional organizations for outreach about any existing/upcoming vacancies to ensure equity in membership recruitment including, but not limited to:
 - The Governor’s Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities;
 - Outright Vermont;
 - AALV;
 - Vermont Center for Independent Living;
 - Disability Rights Vermont;
 - Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights;
 - Pride Center of Vermont;
 - Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council;
 - Tribal representation;
 - Justice/corrections involved representation;
 - Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council (VLIAC);
 - Vermont Legal Aid.
- A corrective action plan for addressing the membership vacancies over the next year was discussed, including review of a proposed process for a consistent and inclusive approach to recruitment over a calendar year period.
- The Committee indicated it was in support of the proposed process to improve recruitment and retention for the Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee and that DVHA staff should complete the initial outreach for open membership vacancies to the previously identified organizations for the business community and the additional organizations identified during July’s meeting. Once individuals indicate they are interested in learning more or submitting an application for membership on the Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee, existing Committee members will then follow-up to provide more information (Committee member volunteers should send their confirmation to Zachary Goss).
- The Committee discussed how to approach appointment terms that have expired during the period of the federal public health emergency; the determination was made to allow members to continue to serve for the period of the federal public health emergency. Members whose terms expired in June 2020 may submit their applications for reappointment at any time.
- For current vacancies, the Committee indicated DVHA shall move forward with recruitment for those positions.
- The Committee requested that DVHA staff send the Advisory Committee application information for new and current members who wish to reapply to the entire Committee.

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DVHA Commissioner's Update

Cory Gustafson, Commissioner (DVHA)

Please see *Advisory Committee PPT 7_27_2020.pdf slide 14* for more information.

DVHA is completing the restatement of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget as a result of the public health emergency. (For the first quarter of FY 2021, DVHA will operate at FY 2020 budget levels.)

The budget for the Agency of Human Services is not yet final. It is widely known that there is less money available from State revenues. The increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) has supported the budget development process.

1115 Waiver Planning

DVHA was previously engaged in the process of seeking authority for a 2-year, no-change extension for Vermont's Section 1115 Demonstration due to the circumstances of the public health emergency and with the understanding that a "no change" proposal was likely to receive approval. However, DVHA has recently learned that federal budget neutrality will impact the amount that Vermont receives from the 1115 Waiver if the "no-change" extension is pursued. Therefore, DVHA is currently reevaluating options to either:

1. propose a next phase of the 1115 Waiver;
2. have the State's Administration work with CMS to emphasize the significant financial impact that budget neutrality would have on DVHA and Vermonters; or
3. accept the budget neutrality impact and proceed with the "no change" extension.

Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program Launch

Alicia Cooper, Director of Payment Reform, Reimbursement, and Rate Setting (DVHA)

Please see *Advisory Committee PPT 7_27_2020.pdf slides 15-17* for more information.

COVID-19 Testing: Policy Development and Program Administration

Nissa James, Health Care Director (DVHA)

Please see *Advisory Committee PPT 7_27_2020.pdf slide 18* for more information.

System Maintenance & Upgrades Update and Medicaid/Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Enrollment

Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)

Please see *Advisory Committee PPT 7_27_2020.pdf slide 19* for more information.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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Next Meetings
August 24, 2020
September 28, 2020

Time: 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Site: Meetings will be convened through Skype due to the State of Emergency produced by COVID-19 until further notice.

Please visit the Advisory Committee website for up-to-date information:
http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory_board/meeting_materials

Additional Information:
<https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19>